APPENDIX 3 WATERS IDENTIFIED FOR DELISTING SINCE THE 2012 REPORT

Assessment is a process in which impaired and non-impaired waters are systematically identified. This is an iterative process, requiring that waters be investigated on an on-going basis as water quality standards are reviewed/refined, sampling and assessment methods are improved, and management activities are adaptively implemented. Additionally, assessment of water quality must factor in the variability inherent to the natural environment. For instance, poor water quality is often associated with unusually wet weather. A limited dataset for a given water may show violations of water quality standards that are not typical for that water due to unusual weather events, and subsequent monitoring may confirm this. Thus, given the dynamic aspects of both the environment and the assessment process, the revisiting of impaired waters sometimes results in the "delisting" of impairments for 303(d)-listed waters.

There are two types of delistings: partial and full. Waters are listed based on non-attainment of assessed designated uses, with the specific impairments (e.g., dissolved oxygen) broken out individually. A partial delist generally occurs when a water no longer has a specific impairment cause associated with it, but the water is still listed for other impairments. For instance, if a water was originally listed for violations of dissolved oxygen and temperature standards, and recent monitoring indicates that this water is now meeting only dissolved oxygen standards, then the water only qualifies for a partial delisting since the aquatic life use is still not attained. Most delistings are partial. A full delist occurs when a water is no longer impaired. If, in the above example, recent monitoring shows the water meets both dissolved oxygen and temperature standards, then it would qualify for a full delist. In the Assessment Database, partial and full delists are distinguished from each other.

Waters can be delisted for multiple reasons. Changes to assessment protocols can result in delistings, as can changes in water quality standards. Shellfish condemnation zones are developed through modeling of bacteria data and other variables, and the boundaries of these zones often change. The shellfishing use for a water that falls in a condemnation zone in the previous cycle can be delisted if it is no longer included in the zone this cycle. Similarly, data at a new monitoring station may indicate that an impairment, such as dissolved oxygen, has a smaller extent than what was assumed in previous assessments, resulting in delisting of dissolved oxygen for one or more segments. More commonly, analysis of recent station data may show little to no exceedences of water quality standards for parameters previously "failing" at that station. The underlying reasons for improved water quality are frequently unknown. In cases were specific management activities are known to have taken place, such as alterations in dam releases, details are provided in the delist rationale. Bacteria is the most common delisted cause.

The following is the list of water-quality limited waters that have full or partial delists for the 2014 assessment.